

Resources for Locality Data: Web Sites

Children and Families

ChildStats.Gov (<http://www.childstats.gov/>) – The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics offers easy access to statistics and reports on children and families, including: family and social environment, economic circumstances, health care, physical environment and safety, behavior, education and health. The Forum fosters coordination, collaboration, and integration of Federal efforts to collect and report data on conditions and trends for children and families. The Forum lists data sources and data tools available from other agencies.

Child Trends Data Bank (<http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/>) -- Provided by [Child Trends](#), a national leader in the field for over 30 year, the Data Bank is a one-stop source for the latest national trends and research on over 100 key indicators of child and youth well-being. The Data Bank features information about national trends related to pregnancy & birth outcomes, well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults, family and economic environment, health and safety risk behaviors and outcomes, and child care and education. If available, state and local data can be accessed through KIDS COUNT (see **KIDS COUNT** below) and other national organizations.

Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health

(<http://www.childhealthdata.org/home>) -- The DRC website includes national and state-level data on hundreds of child health indicators from the [National Survey of Children's Health \(NSCH\)](#) and the [National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs \(NS-CSHCN\)](#).

KIDS COUNT (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>) – Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT provides national, state, and local data about children and youth in regards to demographics, economic well-being (e.g., household income and poverty, participation in SNAP), family environment, education (from pre-K through high school), health (e.g., teen pregnancy and birth, health insurance, children served by CSA), and safety and risky behaviors (e.g., child abuse and neglect, foster care rates).

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service (<http://www.ers.usda.gov/>) -- The Economic Research Service is a primary source of economic information and research in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. With over 350 employees, ERS conducts a research program to inform public and private decision-making on economic and policy issues involving food, farming, natural resources, and rural development. The ERS features interactive tools for locating [food deserts](#) in your

community as well as providing county-level statistics on food access, health and wellbeing, and community characteristics through its [Food Environment Atlas](#).

Child and Family Welfare Programs

Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) Statistics Public

(<http://www.csa.virginia.gov/publicstats/index.cfm>) – Compiled by the Office of Comprehensive Services State, CSA offers statewide, regional and local-level data (expenditures, number served) on comprehensive services provided to qualified youth in Virginia.

Office of Comprehensive Services (<http://www.csa.state.va.us/>) – OCS, which administers state and federal policies in regards to the Comprehensive Services Act, or CSA, has several reports among which are state and locality-specific public [reports](#) on expenditures, assessments, placement types, mandate types, ranked by locality, and other demographic information from the CSA Data Set.

Virginia Department of Social Services (<http://spark.dss.virginia.gov/>) – The state Department of Social Services provides access to information and data on social service programs for state and local DSS agency staff through SPARK (agency-wide intranet site). The public agency website (<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/>) provides much of the same information from SPARK but is designed for a public audience. Also found on the VDSS website:

- Program reports (<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/reports/>) feature measurement data for each of the 120 local DSS jurisdictions.
- Social services spending at the local level are available in annual summary reports at http://www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/reports/agency_wide/jlarc.cgi.
- Locality-specific statistics about vital events (marriage, divorce, live births, non-marital births), demographics (e.g., education), economic indicators (poverty, income, and unemployment) and receipt of social services are on the [Selected Social Services Indicators](#) web page. This data is available through the public web site.
- The Local DSS Agency Profile Report, which has been released annually since 2010, is available on the VDSS Office of Research and Planning (ORP) web page (<http://spark.dss.virginia.gov/divisions/orp/>; see “LDSS Profile” under **Reports**).

Demographics and Economics

U.S. Census Bureau (<http://www.census.gov/>) – The U.S. Census Bureau collects the most comprehensive data about the nation’s people and economy through its national census (collected every ten years) and annual population surveys (e.g., American Community Survey).

- [QuickFacts](#) provides a quick overview of selected census statistics for each state and county.
- Using [American FactFinder](#), users can access a variety of data on demographics, housing, income and poverty, access to health care (insurance status), and so on. Decennial census and annual survey data are available for state, counties/cities, congressional and school districts, and, in some cases, down to the census tract and census block group levels.
- Small-area estimates (county- and city-level) data are available on health insurance coverage ([SAHIE](#)) and on income and poverty ([SAIPE](#)).

Virginia Atlas of Community Health (<http://www.atlasva.com/>) – An online resource for community health indicators that includes county- and city-level data in regards to demographics, total births, non-marital births and teen births, income and poverty, and health insurance coverage.

Virginia Employment Commission (<http://www.vec.virginia.gov/vecportal//index.cfm>) – A portal for locality-specific demographic, economic, and education data through its [Community Profiles](#).

Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service (<http://www.coopercenter.org/>) – Located at the University of Virginia, the Weldon Cooper Center offers data and analytical technical expertise in the areas of demographic, workforce and economic surveys. The Center also provides annual population estimates for each locality (<http://www.coopercenter.org/demographics/virginia-population-estimates>), which can also be viewed in interactive maps (<http://www.coopercenter.org/demographics/interactive-map>).

Government Performance

Auditor of Public Accounts (<http://www.apa.virginia.gov/>) – The Auditor of Public Accounts, which is part of the legislative branch of the state government and reports through JLARC, collects and provides accurate, unbiased information about financial management of public funds. The APA reports on local government revenue and expenditures are available through its annual comparative reports (<http://www.apa.virginia.gov/ComparativeReport.cfm>).

Commission on Local Government

(<http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/CommissiononLocalGovernment/pages/data.htm>) – As part of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, the CLG analyzes locality revenue and expenditure data, which is collected by the Auditor of Public Accounts (see **Auditor of Public Accounts** above), and rank orders localities in terms of fiscal stress. Annual fiscal stress reports are available through 2008/2009.

Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (<http://jlarc.virginia.gov/>) -- JLARC is the oversight agency of the Virginia General Assembly, established to evaluate the operations and performance of State agencies and programs to ensure that funds appropriated by the General Assembly are used effectively and efficiently by State and local agencies. Legislative [reports](#) that are relevant to delivery of social services are available under “Individual and Family Services” (from the pull-down menu).

Virginia Performs (<http://www.vaperforms.virginia.gov/>) -- This website, brought to you by the Council on Virginia's Future, shows you how the Commonwealth measures the state's performance, plan for the future and monitor our progress. The interactive mapping and reporting [tool](#) shows selected measures for each locality and region.

Health (Marriage, Pregnancy and Birth)

National Center for Health Statistics (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>) – The nation’s principal health statistics agency, which compiles and analyzes data from birth and death records, medical records, interview surveys and direct physical examinations and laboratory testing to conduct health surveillance on the nation’s population.

- CDC Wonder (<http://wonder.cdc.gov/>) is an interactive querying system that allows users to view birth rate, fertility rate, and population estimate data from the Census Bureau for the state and for select localities.

Virginia Department of Health (http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/Vital_Records/) -- The state Department of Health collects information on all resident births, deaths, marriages and divorces in the state. The Division of Health Statistics collects and disseminates vital records data, conducts research and produces reports which help guide health policy issues affecting the Commonwealth of Virginia. The annual reports and supplements provide detailed information on a range of measures including: population, teenage pregnancies, births, deaths, induced terminations and fetal deaths.

Violence and Crime

Bureau of Justice Statistics (<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/>) – The Bureau of Justice Statistics’ website features links to several data analysis [tools](#) for examining arrest and crime statistics by locality, including data on juvenile crimes and prisoner recidivism.

The Family and Children’s Trust Fund of Virginia ([Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia](#)) - The Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) has released a groundbreaking report ([Violence at Home: The FACT Report](#)) that measures the prevalence and interrelatedness of violence in

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families, ranging from infants to the elderly, and how often the incidences occur by locality in Virginia.

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

(<http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/about/spotlight/crimeReport/>) – DCJS releases an annual report, *Virginia Crime Trends*, which describes crime trends at the state and local level.

For more information, contact the Virginia Department of Social Services,
Office of Research and Planning at Research@dss.virginia.gov.